

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **March 16, 2016 at 10:05 a.m.** City Hall in the Planning Department's first floor conference room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were the Neighborhood Association Representatives and City Staff.

NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Waste Pro, Lamar Taylor, said they are working on leaves now that leaf season is here. We have one sweeper down so some areas are not done as often now, and should be fixed within a week, he said. Also, by the end of May, all of the trash receptacles should be replaced. Regarding landscaping, Mr. Taylor said Southern Palmetto is working well along with The Greenery. Chris Newnham from The Greenery said we are installing spring flowers along with fresh mulch and weather sealing the furniture at the Waterfront Park. Mr. Taylor said we are meeting quarterly with vendors and it's going well. We will have lots of color in the flowers this year and the irrigation has been updated, he said.

City Public Works Department, Lamar Taylor, referred to Libby Anderson's busy schedule regarding the 2-day SC Conference. Mr. Taylor went over several other projects such as: Pride of Beaufort which his being handled by Chief Matt Clancy, the swing at Pinckney Park, the bench at Cannon Park and the new swings at Pigeon Point Park, Waterfront Park, and Mossy Oaks Park. Also, next week, we are extending the trail walk in the Pigeon Point Park along the backside of the fence. Palms are being planted in Southside Park in the Dog Park area and Pigeon Point Park; The Dog Park is completed with additional dog stations. And there will be running water into the Dog Park the 1st of April. Regarding the Waterfront Park, Phase I of the pavers by the seawall are done and we have 200 additional pavers for Phase II. Bids are out for quotes on the painting of the pavilion and new lights are being done in April. Lighting around the seawall was repaired and replaced with double-heads and they are facing down so there will be less likely to be vandalized; completed in 2017. Battery Point resident, Vicki Woodhead, asked about the status of the cameras. Chief Clancy said we are working with Wildlife Company and they will be back in town to finalize downtown and possibly expand to Pigeon Point Park. Mr. Taylor said it's capable to expand down to the trail if we get cell towers for the Wi-Fi. Chief Clancy said it just comes down to money. Rod Mattingly asked approximately how much. Chief Clancy said the whole project is \$164,000 not including the maintenance costs. The last study was with less cameras at \$247,000. Liza Hill mentioned there will be 14 Willow Oak trees removed at the Waterfront Park - - 11 in west parking lot, 2 in body of the park, and 1 in the east parking lot near the playground which has been confirmed by an Arborist. Ms. Woodhead, asked if a notification could be send out so people who want to donate trees can. Ms. Hill said there is a generic spot on the City's website to donate "in general" but she will still put something on the City's website. Regarding stormwater drainage, Mr. Taylor said bids are out for the post office area and the Hancock Street area that will be presented to Council. Also, the Southside sidewalk project bid is back and we will be meeting with the City Manager and Finance Director to get this started the 1st of April. We will be notifying neighbors next week by walking door-to-door. Regarding Battery Creek, Mr. Taylor said the bacteria is coming from the current Walmart parking. Also, we have a Federal grant that we are splitting with the County to use for the existing pond to start in mid-April to address the water quality issue. Projects

relating to the Waterfront Park are the transient dock which we are using Federal and Natural Resource money. The fire suppression system is important and needs to be redone, but right now it's too busy with the dock master and boat traffic, so we will start in the fall. Regarding the day dock, it is in the permitting process and we should be able to begin in the fall. Six more moorings are being added. On Carteret Street, 24 parking spaces have been added in the grass area. We are also doing sidewalk replacements on Broad Street, Newcastle Street, Glebe Street, and Craven Street. Mr. Taylor asked if anyone had questions. Mr. Mattingly asked about the status of the Lafayette Project. Mr. Taylor said the development is nice but it comes at a cost. Infrastructure should be in first at the developer's cost. In this case, it was done backwards. We are meeting with the developer and the City on how to fund it. The drainage wasn't an issue in the past, but now with new homes it is. Mr. Mattingly asked about the pothole strategy in the Pigeon Point area. Mr. Taylor asked him to send a list and then he will send it to DOT, which seems to work well. A resident said you can also go on DOT's website and enter in the information which is very effective. Ms. Hill said you can also upload photos as an attachment. Ms. Woodhead said photos would help have it fixed quickly. Edna Horn asked, was the water drainage in after the buildings were put up at Lafayette? Maybe we need to change the regulations, she said. Mr. Taylor we just need to have the right people informed at the beginning.

City Fire Department, Warren Cooler, said the burning season starts now and goes until December. He reminded anyone if they have any issues to call 9-1-1 to dispatch us out. He said they are conducting annual hose testing that will end this weekend. We are trying to use the new fire station's training room for the community events such as children's birthday parties. The fire trailer will be at the schools teaching pre-K to 5th grade. We're also doing local publications and fire extinguisher classes. The new Fire Marshall has some good ideas and plans and that we're all excited about as well as our new Fire Chief and new fire station.

City Police Department, Chief Clancy, mentioned that Warren Cooler was newly promoted. Mr. Cooler said he has been born and raised in Beaufort and with the Fire Department for 17 years. Chief talked about the recent downtown armed robberies and said the assailants were juveniles carrying fake pellet guns. They were all arrested by our patrol team who did a great job. He said slowly we are building back up our man power; 2007 we had 40 officers. When the budget went down, people had to retire who were eligible and so we lost some good people. Ms. Woodhead asked, where do you want to be. Chief Clancy said since we aren't hiring all time so when we do hire people, we are able to get top notch people with other skills that greatly add to the department. For example, we have an officer who will be receiving a Life Saving ribbon at the next Council meeting. Mr. Mattingly said this would be a great story for our newspaper. Chief said the officer will be recognized on our Facebook Page. Chief referred to the Pride of Beaufort Project and said we go over them quarterly; streamlining the process. Chief mentioned they are restructuring their department. Some changes are that Lt. Squires has been moved to Community Program Coordinator. He will now coordinate community projects. Chief said his goal is to reach out to the young kids to get them more involved and to be less afraid of police officers. Lt. Squires will also be starting a program at Beaufort Elementary School. And, the Movie Club is a good community activity which starts in

June. Phil Hodges thanked Chief for his officer, Hope Able, who is on the trail. Chief said she is our ambassador. Mr. Hodges did say the police cart that is parked “is” hard to detect. Chief said we are working on a spot light. He said she also rides her bike. She’s a great person and physically fit, Chief said. She patrols the trail once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Office Able is also our Tour Coordinator handling tour licensing, conducting tour testing and runs our volunteer programs. Lt. Squires went over his new duties and said he wants to coordinate with what the schools are doing by attending lunch, recess and reading time. His goal is to reach out to the teens as well. He attends the Crime Watch Meetings, and tries to stop and talk with kids on a daily basis. He wants kids to have the “true” facts about the “police”. He said for anyone to call him or email him anytime. Lt. Squires also mentioned the Boundary Street Project construction and said police are enforcing the speeding laws. Resident asked about the light flashing on Boundary Street. Mr. Taylor said it’s more for when they’re doing work on the weekends. Ms. Hill said there is information on our website which is updated weekly. Ms. Horn referred to the crime report updates and said it was awesome. Lt. Squires informed everyone that the business being conducted out of the Elks Club has stopped and any business going on there will now need a City of Beaufort Business License. Chief Clancy said our Codes Department found some issues that helped us to stop what was going on there.

Battery Point resident asked about the length of the light at the trail. Mr. Hodges said he witnessed people now honking their horns. Battery Point resident said they are even going thru the light. Chief Clancy said they were informed that the blinking red light is to be treated like a Stop sign ... stop, look, and then go. The Traffic County Management and State are running this and it’s only the second one; other is on campus a USC and it’s not a thoroughfare. Mr. Mattingly suggested a digital countdown. Lt. Squires suggested giving it more time and then he will re-look into it. The Boundary Street Project construction unfortunately will make it harder. He said he will re-look at it. The Battery Point resident said there was an explanation in the newspaper.

Rose Binge, a new resident, asked if the Elks Lodge was available because she is looking to use the lodge for kid activities. Lt. Squires said she can have an event like this without a business license as a charity event. He said what was occurring at the lodge was nightclub events and they were getting out of hand; not charity related.

City Planning Department, Liza Hill, said she’s filling in for Ms. Anderson who was attending the SCAPA Conference. Ms. Hill went over some city projects:

- Parker’s is in the permitting process;
- Waffle House is in the permitting process;
- Home 2 Suites will be going before the Design Review Board in April for final approval;
- Harris Teeter is going in at the Old Publix’s site;
- Tidal Wave Spa – next to Waffle House on Sam’s Point Road; and
- Nissan – in the Design Review Board “Staff” review process.

City Planning Department, Liza Hill, said she has grants for the Southside Park trail and the Depot Building for restrooms. On March 31, we will have young leader volunteers at the Southside Park. There will be some trees removed at the Waterfront Park. She referred to the Form-based Code and said their schedule and general information is posted on the City's website.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Battery Point Area, Vicki Woodhead, said all is great.

Hermitage Road Area, Phil Hodge, said Westvine Drive - Rosedia is done. We now have an app that can be downloaded to your phone. We have a diligent board member who is researching trail signs and they have been ordered.

Mossy Oaks including, Barbara Chemsak, talked about the cleanup at Southside Park this Saturday from 8:30 am to noon. She said Gail Westerfield started a Facebook Page for the park called, Friends of Southside Park.

Northwest Quadrant Resident, Rose Binge, said she was born and raised in Beaufort and has just moved back two weeks ago.

Next Meeting is April 20, 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.